

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION

MELVIN LEE SANDERS, III,	§	
Petitioner,	§	
	§	
v.	§	Case No. 3:17-cv-2974-M-BT
	§	
LORIE DAVIS, Director, Texas	§	
Department of Criminal Justice,	§	
Correctional Institutions Division,	§	
Respondent.	§	

**ORDER ACCEPTING FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**  
**OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE, AND**  
**DENYING A CERTIFICATE OF APPEALABILITY**

The United States Magistrate Judge made Findings, Conclusions, and a Recommendation in this case. Movant filed objections, and the District Court has made a *de novo* review of those portions of the proposed Findings and Recommendation to which objection was made. The objections are overruled, and the Court accepts the Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge. The Court notes specifically that the case of *Pena-Rodriguez vs. Colorado*, 137 S. Ct. 855 (2017) extended the rule against impeaching jury deliberations to instances of racial animus and stereotypes, but that is not what Petitioner alleges here.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the petition for habeas corpus relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 is denied.

Considering the record in this case and pursuant to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22(b), Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Sections 2254 and 2255 Proceedings in the United States District Court, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), the Court denies a certificate of appealability. The Court adopts and incorporates by reference the Magistrate Judge's


Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation filed in this case in support of its finding that the petitioner has failed to show (1) that reasonable jurists would find this Court's "assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong," or (2) that reasonable jurists would find "it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right" and "debatable whether [this Court] was correct in its procedural ruling." *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).<sup>1</sup>

If petitioner files a notice of appeal,

( ) petitioner may proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal.

(X) petitioner must pay the \$505.00 appellate filing fee or submit a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

SO ORDERED this 30th day of April, 2019.

  
BARBARA M. G. LYNN  
CHIEF JUDGE

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 11 of the Rules Governing §§ 2254 and 2255 Proceedings reads as follows:

**(a) Certificate of Appealability.** The district court must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant. Before entering the final order, the court may direct the parties to submit arguments on whether a certificate should issue. If the court issues a certificate, the court must state the specific issue or issues that satisfy the showing required by 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22. A motion to reconsider a denial does not extend the time to appeal.

**(b) Time to Appeal.** Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4(a) governs the time to appeal an order entered under these rules. A timely notice of appeal must be filed even if the district court issues a certificate of appealability.